

Summary of Interim Fishery Management Plan

This program, originally proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), is a three-year interim plan (May 1, 2004 – May 31, 2007) now in effect while discussions continue toward development of a long-term flexible reservoir releases program.

The interim plan calls for minimum flow targets during normal conditions at Hale Eddy (225 cubic feet per second [cfs], Harvard (175 cfs), and Bridgeville (115 cfs). This is based on recommendations of NYSDEC Report 83-5. The DRBC's Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF) will be updating this study.

The interim plan also includes minimum target flows during drought watch, drought warning and drought operations.

The revised drought operating plan for Lake Wallenpaupack, owned and operated by PPL, complements the interim fishery plan. Modeling has shown that the implementation of the PPL plan offsets the increased drought operations caused by the releases of the interim fishery plan. This allows for increased fishery protection releases while maintaining the Montague and Trenton flow targets and the diversion capabilities of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree Parties.

With the new PPL plan in effect, the interim fishery plan increases the total volume of available fishery protection storage during normal operations from 14,900 cfs-days to 20,000 cfs-days. An additional 3,000 cfs-days of storage would be available during drought operations. Up to 2,000 cfs-days of this 3,000 cfs-day quantity would be used for supporting minimum flow targets during drought watch and warning operations, while the remainder would be used to maintain conservation and thermal releases during drought operations.

The interim plan allows for more flexible use of storage designated for fishery protection with priority given to thermal protection. The interim plan includes provisions to allow thermal releases during drought operations. Such releases were previously unavailable.

cfs = cubic feet per second

cfs-days = volume from a flow rate of one cfs for a time period of one day

